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9. — *Hans Breitmann's Party. And other Ballads.* Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson and Brothers. 1868. 12mo. pp. 32.

THE old English dramatists seem to have reckoned securely on a laugh, when they brought in a character who spoke broken English, though Shakespeare was the only man of them who made a really comic character in this way out of Fluellen. Hazlitt had a notion that the English were more sensitive to this kind of fun than other nations; but he did not know that the Spaniards had their Biscayans, Moors, and negroes, and the French their Gascon, who amused them in the same way. The little volume before us is one of the most successful of its kind. Not only has the author caught the accent of German-English, but he has caught it as no one but a thorough German scholar could have done; and he shows as great a familiarity with the literature as with the idiom of the language. One of the most comical of the ballads is a ludicrous parody of the *Hildebrand-lied*, at which we could not help laughing, though we shuddered at its audacity. Without being profoundly humorous, the volume is excellent fun, and all the more entertaining that it aims at nothing more. There is real wit in it, and sometimes of a very subtle kind,—as where he says of the *Turners*, that there was “only von Sharman” among them, “und *he* was a *Holstein* Dane.” But we should say it was the author's highest praise, that his mind was able to *play* with his subject,—an achievement almost unprecedented among American authors. The book has no *tendency* whatever; and any reader, whatever his opinions, may find the medicine of an honest laugh in it.

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10. — *If, Yes, and Perhaps. Four Possibilities and Six Exaggerations, with some Bits of Fact.* By EDWARD E. HALE. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1868. 16mo. pp. 296.

THERE is no better company than a parson who is at the same time a man of this world;—so many of them are men altogether, we will not say of *the*, but of *some* other world, whose language is foreign to us, and whose kingdom we trust will never come,—a world quite incredibly inhuman, the creation of a bilious Tract Society, where our bill of fare shall be regulated by dyspeptic colporteurs, and where we shall read endless “Shepherds of Salisbury Plain” and “Dairyman's Daughters,” whenever we are not writing letters to Mrs. Hannah More, or her American copy in water-colors, Miss Hannah Adams.